

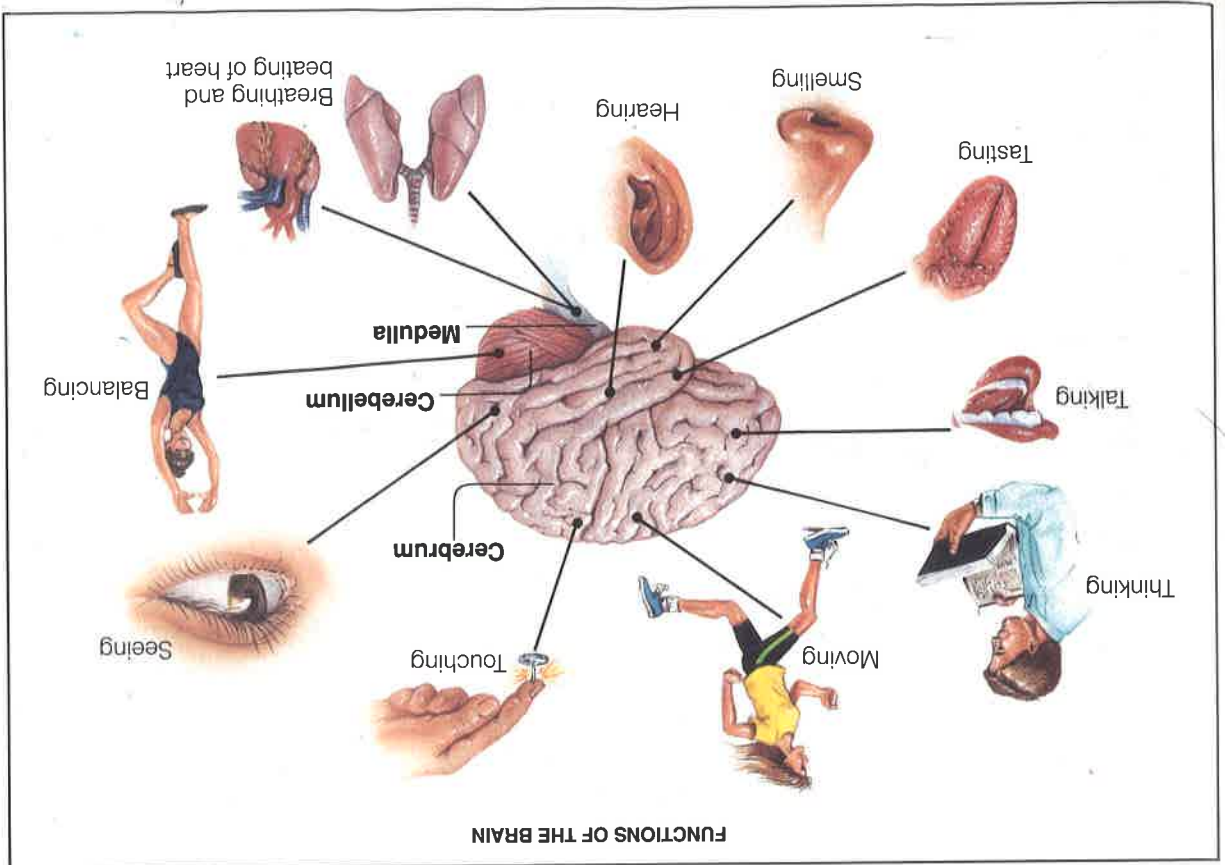
controls the left side of the body, the left side of the brain controls the right side of the body.

Below and to the rear of the cerebrum is the **cerebellum** (ser-uh-BEH-luhm), the second largest part of the brain. The cerebellum's job is to coordinate the actions of the muscles and to maintain balance. As a result, your body is able to move smoothly and skillfully.

Below the cerebellum is the **medulla** (mih-DUH-luh), which connects the brain to the spinal cord. The medulla controls involuntary actions, such as heartbeat, breathing, and blood pressure. Can you name some other types of involuntary actions?

**SPINAL CORD** If you bend forward slightly and run your thumb down the center of your back, you can feel the vertebrae that make up your spinal column. As you may recall from Chapter 2, the vertebrae are a series of bones that protect the spinal cord. The spinal cord runs the entire length of the neck and back. It connects the brain with the rest of the nervous system through a series of 31 pairs of

**Figure 6-13** The brain directs and coordinates all the body's activities. What is the function of the cerebellum?



**Figure 6-12** Impulses are constantly traveling across neurons such as these located in the brain. To what part of the human nervous system does the brain belong?



## Activity Bank

How Fast Can You React?  
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